



February 2024 News

Pure Heart

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Look for us:



“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” Matthew 5:8 NASB

One of the benefits of a lifetime of walking with the Lord is a continual opportunity/invitation to be cleansed. His word, His forgiveness, His magnanimous invitation to come boldly to the throne of grace to find help are the things that keep me on my knees and keep me grateful.

In this age of conflict, rage and intolerance HOW does one keep their heart pure and undefiled? Unless one is willing to completely unplug from all intrusions and interactions with others it is nearly impossible. I have talked to many who express an exhaustion at the endless bickering and unkindness. Where to look? What to read? Who to listen to? Even these simple things can make us grow weary.

Thankfully, OH so thankfully, we are not without instruction. For Jesus clearly spoke a personal kind of guidance filled with promise to those who are weary in well doing, those who feel poor and broken in spirit. Those who feel as if life is a crushing experience.

Jesus said: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” When I was a young woman there were heart breaking things happening in my family. I felt completely incapable of bringing help to the lives of those whom I loved

and cherished. I was broken, and went to one of our pastors and poured out my sorrows. He listened patiently then spoke this verse to me. I had heard it many times, in Mass as a child, but could not fathom how it related to my troubles now. I felt disappointed.

So he explained: Blessed are you when you are poor/bankrupt in spirit. When you have nothing left to give from a human standpoint. Nothing left inside. For it is then that all that the Kingdom of Heaven holds is available to you. And he prayed with me. And as I prayed and wept out my sorrow to the Lord, I felt such cleansing, such love, such grace toward all those who needed it. I was FILLED with all the Kingdom had to offer to face and overcome whatever trials lay ahead.

And in that moment of purification and cleansing, I went from hopelessness to a place of being able to SEE GOD, even in the darkest moments of my life.

Indeed, I have held onto this moment/lesson for more than 40 years, and the Lord has honored it time after time. Selah.



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

On A Personal Note ...



WRITTEN BY,
DEBBIE ECKER

This past month we got word that our very dear friend Dr. George Rooney, went on to be the Lord. His death was sudden and he will be sorely missed by all those who loved and know him. He leaves behind a legacy for the gospel in Thailand, and in many parts of the world. We continue to pray for his wife Lyly, their family and friends. Until we meet again.

Values Driven



WRITTEN BY,
DAN ECKER

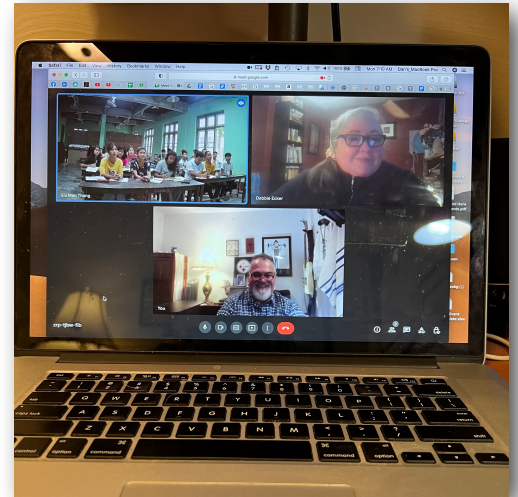
Somewhere in your journey as a follower of Christ when the penny [drops so to speak] and you begin to notice that your life [or some areas of your life] are either being driven [or strongly influenced] by unmet needs or by a set of core values. Those unmet needs [and we all have them] seem to show up in our need for validation, feeling insecure, or at times feeling inadequate. None of which as anything to with who we are in Christ and yet in reality none us enter adulthood without some unfinished busy from our past that requires a deeper work of transformation by the Spirit until all is confirmed into the image of His Son - spirit, soul and body. (See Rom 8:29-30; II Cor 3:18; II Cor 4:16-17; Rom 12:2)

The promise of “if any man be in Christ he is a new creation” still requires that the “old things are passing away and behold new things have come.” (See II Cor 5:17) Make the shift today to be moved [or guided] by a set of core values that are anchored in Christ and rooted in His word. (See Col 3:16)

Global Training Platforms ...

Throughout the year, we continue to provide teaching and training to a group of hungry students in the Emmanuel Theological Seminary School of Missions (ETS) in Kalaymyo, Myanmar.

Although teaching remotely it settings like these has its own set of challenges the rewards are immeasurable. The lives of those being trained hold a great deal of promise for the gospel in many parts of the country as they go out and apply they have learned.



Spiritual Sons & Daughters ...



Here is one of our spiritual daughters from Laos. Her name is Malee. She was one of our very first bible school students who then began to serve with us, as a church planter in the northeast region of Thailand, for over a decade. Her faithfulness in the Lord is bringing forth much fruit in the region. We are proud of her.

She has since then returned back to Laos where she is serving the Lord in a network of churches in across several provinces.

Prayer Points

**“The path of life leads upward for the wise; they leave the grave behind.”
Proverbs 15:24 NLT**

Take your next step!

1. Pray for our Global Training Platforms in Thailand, & Myanmar this year!
2. For our Care For Kingdom Families Projects: REAP: and the FWF in Thailand, during the 1st quarter of 2024.
3. Ministry plans to unfold for all of Firstlight to be strategically placed in 2024 and beyond! *projects, *people, *places, *increased funding!
4. For God to arise in all that we do!